

CONFIDENTIAL

JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Monday - 12 November 1973

1. (Confidential - JMM) Talked to Marshall Wright, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, regarding the White House suggestion that State, Defense and CIA jointly brief the House-Senate conferees on the foreign aid bill regarding the likelihood of a major North Vietnamese offensive in the spring. Wright said that his position was that unless the intelligence part of such a briefing came down hard on the strong likelihood of such an offensive, it would be unwise to meet with the conferees at all. I said I wasn't sure what our final position would be but in general we would probably say that while extensive preparations for a possible offensive were underway, we had no reliable information regarding North Vietnamese intentions on either when or whether to launch such an offensive.

2. (Confidential - JMM) Talked to Jack Marsh, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), on the above matter and he said Secretary Schlesinger was not enthusiastic about the proposed briefing, and felt that if any briefing were given it should be given to Senator Stennis, and let him carry the ball rather than the conferees. I said that this would be fine if Stennis were in good shape, but I doubted he would be able to do much in present circumstances. I told Marsh of my conversation with Marshall Wright of State.

3. (Unclassified - JMM) Called to Kathy Nelson, in the office of Senator Stuart Symington, to ask if there was any deadline on our comments on the Ben Welles article about intelligence failures in the Middle East in the Christian Science Monitor about which the Senator had inquired. She said an answer within a week would be satisfactory.